

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE

John T. Hudson - Chairperson

John R. Steele - Secretary

Jonnette J. Powell - Member

Nancy S. Evans - Director of Elections

130 W. Innes St. - Salisbury, NC 28144

-
- + Am I eligible to vote?
 - + How do I register to vote?
 - + Where do I vote?
 - + What are primaries and general elections?
 - + What is an Absentee Ballot? How do I vote Absentee?
 - + What is Curbside Voting?
 - + What if I moved and failed to change my registration?
 - + Who are my elected officials?
 - + Who are the Board of Elections Board Members?
 - + Who are the Board of Elections Board staff?
 - + What is the deadline for registration / changes?
 - + Where is the Board of Elections located?
 - + What are provisional ballots?
 - + What is an Inactive voter?
 - + What Voting system does Rowan County Use?

Am I eligible to Vote?

You may register to vote in Rowan County
if you are:

1. A citizen of the United States (if convicted of a felony, citizenship rights must have been restored).
2. A person 18 years of age or older
3. A legal resident of Rowan County for 30 days by the date of the next election.

Rowan has free, permanent and
continuous registration. You need to
register, change address or re-register
ONLY if you:

1. Have not registered in Rowan County before.
2. Have moved to a different voting precinct since you registered in Rowan County. If you move, it is a violation of the law to return to your old precinct and vote after 30 days.
3. Wish to change your party affiliation
4. Have changed your name
5. Have been placed on Inactive status.

A voter registration card will be mailed to you once your registration application has been processed or a change is made to your registration. They are mailed weekly. Keep the card, as it may be used to change your address by mail should you move, change your name or change your party within Rowan County. It can also be used to cancel your Rowan County registration should you move out of the County.

A registration form must be postmarked 25 days before an election or delivered to the Board of Elections no later than 25 days before an election in order to be valid for that election.

Registration may be placed in inactive status if a voter card is returned by the Postal Service as undeliverable.

[Back to top]

How do I register to vote?

You may obtain registration forms at the following locations in Rowan County. Board of Elections Office, 130 W. Innes St. (Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm) At any of Rowan County's public libraries and high schools during regular hours. At public locations designated by special registration drives. Department of Motor Vehicles, Various agencies (Social Services, agencies dealing with people with disabilities, Employment Security Commission, Armed Forces Recruitment offices).

In addition, you may change your address by filling out the back of your voter registration card and returning it to the Board of Elections. CARD MUST BE POSTMARKED 25 DAYS BEFORE ELECTION OR RECEIVED IN THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE BY 5:00 PM, 25 DAYS BEFORE ELECTION.

[Back to top]

Where do I vote?

You will be assigned a voting place within the precinct where you live. A precinct will be assigned by our office when you register or change address and you will be notified by mail. You will receive a voter registration card before any election if you are a new voter or have made changes since the last election. The voter card will indicate the name and location of your voting place. You may also telephone the Elections Office for the location of your voting place (704)633-6231.

List of Polling Places within Rowan County.

[Back to top]

What are Primaries and General Elections?

In primaries in North Carolina, you vote only in the primary of the party with which you are affiliated. If you register unaffiliated you may be allowed to vote in a primary if a party allows unaffiliated voters to vote in their primary.

In the primary you NOMINATE party candidates and in a general election you ELECT officials for these offices:

United States Senator (6 year terms) United States Representative (2 year terms) Governor and other state officials (4 year terms) State Senate and State House (2 year terms) County Officials (4 year staggered terms)

In a presidential election year and every four years thereafter you also ELECT:

United States President and Vice-President
NC Governor and other State Officials

Municipal officials will be elected in 2003, and they are elected in odd number years.

[Back to top]

What is an Absentee Ballot? How do I vote Absentee?

ABSENTEE VOTING IN NORTH CAROLINA

Traditional Methods and New Options

As provided by the State Board of Elections from their
Web Site: <http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/>

Generally speaking, absentee voting is comprised of two methods by which registered voters may cast ballots other than the traditional method of appearing in person and casting a ballot on the day of the election. These methods are as follows:

1. Absentee by Mail
2. Absentee One-Stop
 - In the office of the county board of elections.

The deadline for persons to register in order to be eligible to vote in an election is 25 days before the election.

Absentee by Mail

Any registered voter is authorized to vote by mail an absentee ballot in any primary or election conducted by the county board of elections.

The voter or the voter's near relative* may send a signed written request to the county board of elections office beginning 50 days prior to election day. Written requests must be received in the office no later than the Tuesday prior to election day.

Each request must be signed by the voter or the voter's near relative, and include the voter's name and address as they appear on the registration records, and the address where the ballot is to be mailed. It is helpful to include the voter's date of birth, the near relative's address and relationship to the absentee voter.

*A near relative, as defined by law, is a spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, stepchild, or verifiable legal guardian.

If the voter is qualified, ballots will be mailed to the voter after receipt of the written request. The voted ballot must be received in the County Board of Elections office by 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election in order to be counted. ALL information requested on the absentee envelope MUST be filled out or the ballot may not be counted.

Absentee One-Stop (No Excuse)

In the county board of elections office

Absentee One-Stop voting has been available in county board of elections offices for years. The one-stop voting process permits qualified voters to vote absentee in person at the county board of elections. Voting by Absentee One-Stop no longer requires an excuse. One-stop voting begins on the Thursday after the voter registration deadline.

One-Stop voting hours are 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday and the Saturday before the election from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. The last day to vote One-Stop is the Saturday before the election.

When the voter presents him/herself to vote, the voter must state his or her name, residence address and complete the application to vote absentee, vote the ballot.

[Back to top]

What is Curbside Voting?

If you are unable to enter the voting place because of age or physical disability, you will be allowed to vote either in your vehicle or near the voting place. Have someone enter the voting place and inform the election officials of your desire to vote in this manner.

[Back to top]

What if I moved and failed to change my registration?

If you have moved within Rowan County and you failed to change your address by the registration deadline, there is a procedure that allows you to vote.

To Vote without delay in any local, state, national primary or general election, a voter must file a change of address at least 25 days prior to Election Day. If a voter moves within Rowan County and fails to file a change of address by the deadline, the voter may vote by going to the old precinct and obtain an "Election Day Transfer Form". The Voter will take this form to the new precinct or to the Rowan County Board of Elections by the voter. The form will allow the voter to vote in his/her new precinct.

The Voter may also go to the voter's new precinct without obtaining an "Election Day Transfer Form" and vote by provisional ballot.

Provisional Ballots are not counted on Election Day - the Board of Elections determines the eligibility of Provisional ballots at the canvass, which is at 11:00 a.m. on the Friday after the Election. All qualified Provisional ballots are counted at that time by the Board of Elections Members and added to the official results of the election.

Who are the Board of Elections Board Members?

- + John T. Hudson - Chairperson
- + John R. Steele - Secretary
- + Jonnette J. Powell - Member

[Back to top]

Who are the Board of Elections Board staff?

- + Nancy S. Evans - Director
- + Brenda W. Foil - Deputy Director
- + Pamela B. Boan - Elections Staff

What is the deadline for registration / changes?

The deadline to register, change party or change address occurs 25 days prior to each election.

[Back to top]

Where is the Board of Elections located?

The Board of Elections of Office is located at 130 W. Innes St. It is the renovated Old Post Office located across the street from the Salisbury Post.

[Back to top]

What are provisional ballots?

A Provisional ballot is a voted ballot, which is preserved and protected in a certification envelope until the voter's qualifications are determined. If the voter is determined qualified, the ballot is counted on Canvas Day. If the voter is determined not eligible the ballot envelope remains sealed.

The intent of fail-safe voting (provisional ballots) is such that those who are eligible to vote are allowed to do so, without disturbing the integrity of the elections. It also protects the integrity of the elections by not counting the provisional ballots of those persons not qualified to vote.

The Provisional Ballot:

- + Obtains updated registration information on the voter,
- + Allows voter to cast ballot,
- + Intends to preserve the integrity of the election. It gives the county board of elections time to verify registration to see if there is substantial evidence within the office or through contact with the registering agency that the voter did indeed make application to register. The qualified registered votes will have their ballots counted on Canvas day.

[Back to top]

What are Inactive voters?

Inactive voters are those voters who do not have a verifiable resident address, as we have had numerous mailings returned to our office marked "undeliverable". The "Inactive" voters, if eligible, are still allowed to vote but will need to change their address with us so that we can assign them to the correct voting district.

[\[Back to top\]](#)

What Voting system does Rowan County Use?

Rowan County uses the optical scan Accu-Vote voting equipment in the Precincts. Rowan also has touch-screen electronic voting units that are used for One-Stop voting in most elections.